

Amendments to the Claims

and

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1, 4, and 7 are amended.

1. (currently amended) A personal watercraft comprising:
 - an engine disposed on a lower side of a deck of a hull;
 - a jet propeller disposed on a rear side of the engine;
 - a jet nozzle that ejects jet water, the jet nozzle disposed on a rear side of the jet propeller; ~~and~~
 - a steering nozzle supported on the jet nozzle so as to be movable in a left-right direction for determining a jet direction of jet water ejected from the jet nozzle; and
 - a ride plate, the ride plate being set at an angle relative to a reference line, the reference line being parallel to a horizontal line of the watercraft during planning, such that the ride plate forms an upward gradient toward the rear side of the hull,wherein the axis of the jet propeller is set with a rearwardly downward gradient, and the jet direction of jet water ejected from the steering nozzle coincides with the axis of the jet propeller, ~~and a bottom surface of a stern the ride plate of the watercraft has a rearwardly upward gradient.~~
2. (original) The personal watercraft according to claim 1, wherein if the steering nozzle is set free relative to the jet nozzle, the axis of the jet propeller and the axis of the steering nozzle are caused to coincide by a jet force resulting from ejected jet water.
3. (original) The personal watercraft according to claim 1, wherein the steering nozzle is vertically movable and the jet direction of jet water ejected from the steering nozzle coincides with the axis of the jet propeller at a standard position during navigation.

4. (currently amended) A personal watercraft comprising:
jet propulsion means for propelling the watercraft forward;
nozzle means for ejecting jet water from a rear side of the jet propulsion means; and
steering means supported on the nozzle means so as to be movable in a left-right
direction for determining a jet direction of jet water ejected from the jet nozzle; and
a ride plate, the ride plate being set at an angle relative to a reference line, the reference
line being parallel to a horizontal line of the watercraft during planning, such that the ride plate
forms an upward gradient toward the rear side of the hull,
wherein an axis of the jet propulsion means is set with a rearwardly downward gradient,
the jet direction of jet water ejected from the steering means coincides with the axis of the jet
propulsion means, and a bottom surface of a stern of the watercraft has a rearwardly upward
gradient.
5. (original) The personal watercraft according to claim 4, wherein if the steering means
nozzle is set free relative to the nozzle means, the axis of the jet propeller and the axis of the
steering nozzle are caused to coincide by a jet force resulting from ejected jet water.
6. (original) The personal watercraft according to claim 4, wherein the nozzle is vertically
movable and the jet direction of jet water ejected from the nozzle means coincides with the axis
of the jet propeller at a standard position during navigation.

7. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a watercraft that comprises an engine, a jet propeller, a jet nozzle for ejecting jet water, and a steering nozzle,

the method comprising the steps of:

providing a ~~bottom surface of a stern of the watercraft with a rearwardly upward gradient~~ ride plate at an angle relative to a reference line, the reference line being parallel to a horizontal line of the watercraft during planning, such that the ride plate forms an upward gradient toward the rear side of the hull, and

fixing an axis of the jet propeller to coincide with an axis of the steering nozzle in a standard position during navigation of the watercraft, wherein the standard position is set so that the coinciding axes have a rearwardly downward gradient.